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Patterson Driving Michigan to the Forefront

Senate adopted Concurrent Resolution 14 seeking federal funding for fuel cell technology research

LANSING – Senate Concurrent Resolution (SCR) 14, authored and introduced by Senator Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, unanimously passed the Michigan Senate yesterday. SCR 14 urges President George W. Bush and the Congress of the United States to fund additional research projects in Michigan to advance fuel cell technology.

As the chair of the Senate Technology and Energy Committee, Senator Patterson identified fuel cell technology early on as a priority for Michigan. Through his innovation and diligence, Patterson is working to lead the nation's technology into a new age with Michigan as its leader.

"Fuel cells have the potential to one day be the primary fuel of choice, and Michigan can be the leader in advancing the nation towards this technology," Patterson stated. "With the President of the United States identifying fuel cell technology as a priority of the nation, the time is now for Congress to choose Michigan as its vehicle as we drive into a new era. I am optimistic that we will receive the funding we are requested from the federal government. Let's keep Michigan as the engine that drives America."

SCR 14 recognizes that President Bush identified fuel cell research in his State of the Union address as a national priority. The resolution also recognizes the important role Michigan is ready to play in advancing fuel cell technology.

"With the recent war in Iraq, it is evident that new sources of fuel need to be identified. We cannot remain dependent on a limited, non-renewable resource," Patterson said. "Fuel cell technology offers short term and long - term solutions to the challenges we face. With the full support of the Michigan Senate, we must continue to explore these benefits.

"Bringing the fuel cell technology industry to Michigan is a win-win situation. It's environmentally friendly, and economically prosperous. If Michigan receives the funding, more business would enter the state. More business means high-paying, quality manufacturing jobs for Michigan families."

The concurrent resolution was unanimously passed by the Senate and will now go to the House for consideration.